

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01161 192129Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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R 192047Z APR 77  
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3217  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USLO PEKING  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1161

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, MG, US  
SUBJ: MONGOLIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE PUNTSAGNOROV  
COMMENTS ON SIGNIFICANCE OF BENIN DEBATE

REF: A. USUN 1015 (NOTAL); B. STATE 087204

1. SUMMARY: IN PRIVATE COMMENT TO POLCOUNS IN UN SECURITY COUNCIL CHAMBER DURING DEBATE ON BENIN APRIL 14, MONGOLIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AMBASSADOR PUNTSAGNOROV SAID MONGOLIA PERCEIVED THAT ATTACK BY MERCENARY FORCE ON A SMALL, VULNERABLE STATE LIKE BENIN HELD GREAT SIGNIFICANCE FOR MONGOLIA. PUNTSAGNOROV CONSIDERED THAT SUCH EVENTS STEMMED NATURALL AND INEVITABLY FROM TENSIONS BETWEEN DIFFERING NATIONAL SYSTEMS. HE SAID THE ONLY WAY TO COPE WITH THEM IS TO ESTABLISH AND PROTECT CHANNELS OF DIALOGUE AND MUTUAL CONSULTATION OF AN HONEST KIND. FOR THAT REASON, PUNTSAGNOROV IS ANXIOUS TO ESTABLISH US-MONGOLIAN TIES. END SUMMARY.

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2. MONGOLIAN PERMREP AMB PUNTSAGNOROV COMMENTED TO POLCOUNS THAT HE HAD FOLLOWED THE DEBATE ON BENIN CLOSELY, ATTENDING ALL SESSIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND CIRCULATING BRODALLY AMONG DELEGATIONS TO FOLLOW CORRIDOR NEGOTIATIONS. HE CONSIDERED THIS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DEBATES FROM MONGOLIA'S POINT OF VIEW.

3. PUNTSAGNOROV SAID MONGOLIA PERCEIVES THAT THE ATTACK BY A MERCENARY FORCE ON A SMALL AND VULNERABLE STATE LIKE BENIN HOLDS GREAT SIGNIFICANCE FOR MONGOLIA. AS A NUMBER OF SPEAKERS HAD NOTED IN THE SC DEBATE, "IT COULD HAPPEN TO US."

4. THE MONGOLIAN SAID HE WAS CONVINCED OF THE MERCENARY MAKE-UP OF THE ATTACKING FORCE. MONGOLIA STRONGLY CONDEMNS THIS KIND OF ACTION, WHICH IS MOTIVATED PRIMARILY BY MONEY. IT IS FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT, BECAUSE OF THE CYNICAL ROLE OF MONEY, FROM THE PROVISION OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND DISCIPLINED "VOLUNTEERS" WHICH SOCIALIST STATES SOMETIMES HAVE USED IN SUPPORT OF THEIR CAUSES.

5. HE COMMENTED THAT THE TROUBLES OF BENIN ARISE BASICALLY FROM THE TENSIONS INEVITABLY EXISTING BETWEEN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERING SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS. RECURRENT CONFLICTS LIKE THE BENIN INCIDENT ARE TO BE EXPECTED, PROBABLY WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY IN LIGHT OF THE DEEP-SEATED TENSIONS IN THE REGION.

6. PUNTSAGNOROV IS OF THE VIEW THAT THE SPECTER OF INTRAMURAL WRANGLING AMONG MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN BLOC, WHICH WAS A NOTABLE FEATURE OF THE BENIN DEBATE, WAS GREATLY TROUBLING AFRICAN LEADERS. THEIR APPARENT BLOC UNITY ON MANY SUBJECTS IS "DESPERATELY" REINFORCED BY SUCH LEADERS AS TANZANIA AND NIGERIA, BUT THEY SEE "QUITE CORRECTLY" THAT THE CONTINENT'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN PEACE, UNITY AND COOPERATION IS DECLINING IN THE FACE OF

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THE FUNDAMENTAL TENSIONS THAT DRIVE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND SUBREGIONS. THE MONGOLIAN EXPECTED THAT THE PROGRESSION OF DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA WOULD BE "QUITE DIFFERENT" IN THE FUTURE.

7. FOR THESE REASONS, MNGOLIA CONSIDERED THE BENIN DEBATE UNCOMMONLY SIGNIFICANT AND INDICATIVE OF FUTURE TRENDS. PUNTSAGNOROV CONCLUDED HIS COMMENT BY SAYING THAT SUCH TENSIONS BETWEEN DIFFERING NATIONAL SYSTEMS ARE NATURAL AND INEVITABLE. THE ONLY WAY TO COPE WITH THEM IS TO ESTABLISH AND PROTECT CHANNELS OF DIALOGUE AND MUTUAL CONSULTATION OF AN HONEST KIND. FOR THAT REASON, HE IS ANXIOUS TO ESTABLISH TIES WITH THE US.

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## Message Attributes

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